Agreements during Indo-Asean Summit

*59. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during Prime Minister's recent visit to Bali for Indo-ASEAN Summit, a number of agreements were signed for mutual cooperation, including one for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation for a Free Trade Zone, besides augmenting air and rail links to different ASEAN destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The leaders of Indian and the ASEAN countries singed a *Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation* during the Second ASEAN-India Summit on 8 October, 2003, in Bali, Indonesia. The Framework Agreement envisages the establishment of an Indo-ASEAN Regional Trade and Investment Area, which includes a Free Trade Area in Goods, services and investment.

2. Negotiations of the Free Trade Area in goods are expected to commence in January, 2004 and be completed by June, 2005. The negotiated FTA would come into force in January, 2006. Tariff reduction/ elimination will be completed by December, 2011 between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand and India.Tariff reduction/elimination between Philippines and India will commence on January, 2006 and be completed by December, 2016. Tariff reduction/ elimination between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam (CLMV countries) and India would commence from January, 2006, to be completed by the CLMV countries by December, 2016 and by India by December, 2011.

3. For trade in services and investments, the negotiations on the respective agreements shall commence in 2005 and be concluded by 2007.

4. The Framework Agreement includes in Early Harvest Programme (EHP) on trade in goods under which progressive tariff reduction on 105 agreed items shall commence from November, 2004. Tariff elimination/reduction shall be completed by Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and India by October, 2007, and by Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam by October, 2010. In addition, India has also given unilateral tariff concessions to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam on 111 items.

5. The Agreement provides the roadmap for negotiating a Free Trade Area Agreement with the ASEAN. An ASEAN-India Trade Negotiating Committee shall be established to carry out the programme of negotiations. This would give further impetus to India-ASEAN linkage in trade, services and other areas of economic cooperation, and would facilitate a closer economic partnership between India and ASEAN in the 21st century.

6. The leaders of India and the ASEAN countries issued a *Joint Declaration on* Cooperation in Combating Internation Terrorism that envisages in : (i) exchange of information, (ii) legal and enforcement matters, (iii) institutional capacity augmnetation, and (iv) training. Relevant Agencies on the two sides would be taking further steps to put this cooperation programme into action.

7. India acceded to the *Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia,* that signifies India's commitment to work with the ASEAN countries in maintaining regional peace and stability. As a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum, India is actively involved in peace and security related issues in the region.

8. With a view to ensuring better connectivity in order that India and ASEAN could reap full benefits from their geographical proximity, the Prime Minister of India, in his talks with the ASEAN leaders, offered the designated Airlines of each ASEAN country the facility of daily services to New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, as well as an unlimited number of flights to connect another 18 tourist destinations in India. The Prime Minister also stressed the need to improved road and rail connectivity between India and the ASEAN countries. He drew special attention to the proposed trilateral highway project between India. Myanmar and Thailand, and the proposed rail link from India to Vietnam.

Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project

*60. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atleast eleven of the 31 States, through which Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project passes, have not met their obligation for timely land acquisition;